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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9701
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM PGOV CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT AND THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU --
FURTHER COMMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS

REF: SANTIAGO 4822

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS RETURNED FROM THE OASGA JUNE 29. SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL HE, AS WELL AS THE INTERIOR AND LABOR MINISTERS (SEE SEPTEL) SPOKE TO A MEETING OF ALL CABINET MEMBERS AND FLAG-RANK OFFICERS. THE PRESS WAS PRESENT FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE MEETING AND THE JUNE 30 NEWSPAPERS REPORT CUBILLOS' PRESENTATION. THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM "LA TERCERA" PURPORT TO BE DIRECT QUOTES.

2. THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU. "RECALLING AN AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULTATIONS IS A FREQUENT PRACTICE IN MODERN DIPLOMACY. UNHAPPILY, THIS CALL TO RETURN FOR CONSULTATION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT WE CONSIDER UNFORTUNATE AND
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UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT OBLIGED US TO PUT OUT OUR OWN STATEMENT ON MONDAY. THE STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT ATTEMPTS TO CAST DOUBT AS TO WHETHER CHILEAN AUTHORITIES ARE WILLING TO CONIINUE TO COOPERATE ON THE LETELIER CASE. THE TOPIC OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS REFERRED TO IN THE FINAL SENTENCE (OF THE STATEMENT) AS THOUGH TO SAY THAT CHILE CONTINUES

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TO HAVE PROBLEMS IN THIS REGARD AND THAT THERE IS NEED
TO RESTUDY THE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, I CONTINUE TO
INSIST THAT THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU TO THE UNITED
STATES WILL BE USEFUL BECAUSE HE CAN EXPLAIN TO HIS
SUPERIORS HOW WE REALLY FEEL ABOUT THESE MATTERS. IF THIS
RECALL FOR CONSULTATION WAS INTENDED TO EXERT PRESSURE ON
CHILE IN SOME FORM, I BELIEVE IT WILL GET NOWHERE. IF
THE PURPOSE WAS TO PLACE CHILE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION
IN THE OASGA IT ALSO WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IN
REALITY IT GAINS NOTHING."

3. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER COOPERATION. "IF THERE
WERE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES THIS WILL BECOME EVIDENT
SINCE, IF WHAT IS SOUGHT IN THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE
COOPERATING IN THE SOLUTION OF A CRIME THAT WE HAVE ALL
CONDEMNED, THIS IS POSSIBLE ON CONDITIONS THAT AMBASSADOR
LANDAU KNOWS AND THAT HE CAN EXPLAIN VERY WELL TO HIS
GOVERNMENT. BASICALLY, THEY ARE RECIPROCITY AND COOPERA-
TION AND INFORMATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS (SIC), ON
THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE WITH THEM, WITH
WHICH CHILE IS HONESTLY COMPLYING, AND WITH WHICH THE
UNITED STATES, FOR REASONS THAT IT HAS NOT UNTIL NOW EX-
PLAINED TO US, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPLY. WE DO NOT WANT TO
WORK ON THE BASIS OF INFORMAL PROCEDURES THAT LATER LEND THEM-
SELVES TO ALL SORTS OF CAPRICIOUS INTERPRETATIONS. I
HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S
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CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. THE TWO REQUESTS THAT IN
THE PRESS STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARE DES-
CRIBED AS PENDING ARE MERELY PROBATORY PROCEEDINGS. THEY
HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EXTRADITION OF GENERAL MANUEL
CONTRERAS NOR OF ANY OTHER OFFICIAL OR OFFICER OF THE
ARMED FORCES. WE ARE NOT HERE CONFRONTED WITH ANY REQUIRE-
MENT OF SUCH GRAVITY OR IMPORT. RATHER IT IS A MATTER
OF JUDICIAL PROBATORY ACTIONS THAT DO NOT MERIT A REAC-
TION OUT OF PROPORTION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS THE RECALL FOR CONSULTATIONS
OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU. I HAVE IN ALL OF THIS, IN THAT
PART WHICH HAS FALLEN TO ME TO HAVE A ROLE, THE SERENTIY
OF KNOWING THAT WE ARE IN THE RIGHT IN THE MANNER IN
WHICH WE ARE ACTING WITH THE UNITED STATES."

4. "EL CRONISTA" WHICH RECORDED ONLY A PART OF THE
ABOVE HAS A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT CONCLUDING SENTENCE:
"I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT ONCE THE SITUATION IS FULLY
KNOWN, AND NOT WRAPPED IN THE MYSTERY THAT IT HAS HAD
UP UNTIL NOW, THE UNITED STATES WILL UNDERSTAND THAT
IN THIS CASE IT ACTED PRECIPITOUSLY."
KENNEDY

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